

West Peninsular Florida, Vol. 2

Environmental Sensitivity Index Maps



Introduction

The most widely used approach to sensitive environment mapping in the United States is NOAA's Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI). This approach systematically compiles information in standard formats for coastal shoreline sensitivity, biological resources, and human-use resources. ESI maps are useful for identifying sensitive resources before a spill occurs so that protection priorities can be established and cleanup strategies designed in advance. Using ESIs in spill response and planning reduces the environmental consequences of the spill and cleanup efforts.



This CD-ROM contains maps from the West Peninsula Florida, volume 2 ESI atlases developed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and NOAA.

The ESI strategy emphasizes standard methods for shoreline sensitivity rankings, data structures for organizing resource information, and map formats for both electronic and hard-copy output. NOAA and the State of Florida are developing advanced applications to apply the advantages of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for data access by local resource managers. NOAA is undertaking a wide-ranging program to promote open ESI standards and develop digital ESI databases for high-priority coastal areas in partnership with individual states, federal agencies, and the private sector.

Your ESI CD-ROM contains the following files and directories:

GUIDE.PDF

This guide shows you how to navigate through the files on the CD-ROM and how to print the Area maps. It is the opening file to which the rest of the files are linked.

ESI_DATA

This directory contains the Index map, ESI maps, Seasonality tables, associated Introduction and Legend files, and a technical file about the actual data used in the ESI maps.

Within the ESI_DATA directory are the following files and sub-directories:

INTRO.PDF

This file is a text introduction to the ESI Atlas that explains the purpose and content of the atlas. It lists animal species in the area, gives contacts for human-use features such as parks and marinas, and describes the various shoreline habitats found in the area.

LEGEND.PDF

This file tells what each color and symbol used in the ESI maps stands for and gives tips for interpreting the map information.

INDEX.PDF

This file is a map of the Florida coast covered in this atlas. Forty-five ESI maps are linked to this document such that an area of interest can be located on the index and accessed by clicking in the appropriate map boundary.

SEASON.PDF

This file lists the seasonal species data associated with each ESI map. The table shows each species present in the area, whether they are on any state or federal threatened or endangered species lists and the level of concern, which months the species is present, and the times of various life stages such as nesting or spawning.

LOWRES

This directory contains the screen resolution (72 dpi) ESI maps. These are the maps that are accessed through the Index map and that are associated with the Seasonality tables. You can print 8.5" x 11" versions of the maps.

The titles of these maps are linked to the Seasonality tables, so to see the seasonality data for a map, click on the map title.

HIRES

This directory contains the high-resolution 300-dpi ESI maps. They are the same maps as the 72-dpi maps except at a higher resolution. These files should be used when you are printing full-sized or enlarged versions of the maps. These maps are not linked to any of the other files.

METADATA.PDF

This file provides the technical documentation about the data shown on the ESI maps. It details the quality standards for the data, discusses how the spatial data was organized and referenced, and gives complete information about the entities and attributes portrayed on the maps.

Information about the Florida Marine Research Institute oil spill program can be found at <http://www.fmri.usf.edu>

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